

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



0303418  
Distr.  
GENERAL

S/8596\*  
27 May 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

LETTER DATED 26 MAY 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to refer to the letters addressed to you on 8 May 1968 (A/7096, S/8581) and on 17 May 1968 (A/7099, S/8588) by the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic.

These letters purport to be replies to my letter to you of 23 April 1968 (S/8556) in which I drew attention to continued Arab warfare against Israel and to the direct responsibility of the United Arab Republic and other Arab Governments for the unabating acts of aggression by regular and irregular forces, in violation of the cease-fire. Instead of accounting for his Government's own belligerent policy and nefarious deeds, the United Arab Republic's representative tries to shift responsibility to the Palestinian Arabs. This tactic is not new. For twenty years Egypt has been exploiting and victimizing the Palestinian Arabs, using them as a tool in its international adventures and obstructing the solution of their problems out of fear that this might prejudice Egypt's aggressive designs on Israel. Now Egypt is using the name of the Palestinian Arabs again to camouflage its current strategy of war by sabotage and terror.

The real attitude of the United Arab Republic towards the Palestinian Arabs is a matter of public record. It was displayed in all its cruelty during the nineteen years of Egyptian occupation of the Gaza Strip. There, nearly 350,000 Palestinian Arabs remained under United Arab Republic rule, their political, civil and human rights restricted and violated.

---

\* Also issued under the symbol A/7100.

Suffice it to quote from a broadcast by Radio Damascus on 12 October 1961 which stated:

"Egypt is exercising tyranny in the Strip. The orderly demonstration protesting against unfairness in handing out jobs, and led by Sayyid A-Dibs, was fired upon, and one man killed."

The Jordanian daily "El Jihad" reported on 27 June 1957:

"The representatives of 80,000 refugees in Jericho denounced Egyptian propaganda on the refugee issue. The refugees asked whether the Egyptians had forgotten that they were the only Moslem country which had forbidden refugees to work in its territory."

The respect of the United Arab Republic for the United Nations Charter and for human rights has also manifested itself in the treatment by the United Arab Republic Government of minority groups in Egypt, including the persecution to which the Jewish community continues to be subjected. It was amply demonstrated in Yemen. There, an Egyptian expeditionary force was engaged for years in a squalid colonial war, a thousand miles from Egypt, bombing villages from the air, massacring and attacking the defenceless civilian population with gas.

This is the record in the light of which the above letters of the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic must be scrutinized. Their only purpose is to serve the propaganda campaign of misrepresentation which accompanies Egypt's relentless war against Israel.

The familiar charges advanced by the representative of the United Arab Republic concerning conditions in the areas administered by Israel have been repeatedly exposed as groundless.

I should like to refer in particular to my letters to you of 6 February 1968 (A/7053, S/8383) and of 11 March 1968 (A/7066, S/8451).

It is not unexpected that Egypt, persisting in her war against Israel would prefer that the situation in territories under Israel control should in no way be better than the conditions during Egyptian occupation. Egypt would rather see these territories remain neglected and stagnant, hotbeds of chaos and terror. It is, however, the firm intention of the Israel authorities, responsible under international law for the safety, welfare and security of these areas and their inhabitants, to do everything possible to ensure normal life and development and prevent violations of law and order. When despite such efforts violations of law

/...

or breaches of peace do occur, the United Arab Republic Government constantly inciting and frequently organizing them, is hardly entitled to come forward in plaint about measures necessitated by such occurrences.

The following is a comment from "The Daily Telegraph", London, of 30 April 1968:

"Israel's occupation of conquered territories has in general been the most humane and generous in modern history, even more so than the American occupation of Japan after World War II. And this is proving to be very good tactical politics..."

"Economic conditions for Arabs in the occupied territories are improving. Many of them, even the professional refugees, are better off than they have ever been before.

"Arab wages are rising to a level set by Israeli trade unions. Administration of Arab affairs is still handled by the same mayors and officials who were there before the June war..."

"On its record so far Israel can have a clear conscience before the United Nations or any other international bar on its handling of the occupied Arab areas."

It must moreover be borne in mind, at all times, that the territories in question have come under Israel's control as a result of the twenty-year war pursued by the United Arab Republic against Israel and the armed hostilities into which this war erupted last June.

The representative of the United Arab Republic finds it appropriate to refer also to the Security Council resolution of 22 November 1967 which called for the establishment of a just and lasting peace and agreement. No verbal hoax can conceal the basic fact that the United Arab Republic policy remains in word and deed the policy of the Khartoum Conference: no peace, no negotiation, no recognition of Israel. It is obvious that as long as the Khartoum decisions continue to express Egypt's attitude, Egypt bars in effect the road to any peaceful agreement.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH  
Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations